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Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and Economic Commission for Africa

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (forty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa), held in Abuja on 29 and 30 March 2014, and at the thirty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014. The full texts of the resolutions are available from the following links: http://www.uneca.org/cfm2014 and http://periododesesiones.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/ses.35_ple-en_resolutions_adopted.pdf.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Council

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) adopted resolutions 682 (XXXV), 683 (XXXV) and 689 (XXXV), on the basis of which the following draft resolutions are submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council.

Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fifth session, held in Lima from 5 to 9 May 2014, of resolution 682 (XXXV) entitled "Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean",

Endorses the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as set out in resolution 682 (XXXV) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the annex thereto, as follows.

Annex

Resolution 682 (XXXV)

Establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and other relevant internationally agreed instruments constitute, together with the global dialogue on this issue, the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcome of the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Bearing in mind that the year 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,

Considering that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been cooperating systematically in the field of social development to facilitate inter-agency coordination among the countries of the region, international organizations and the national agencies charged with carrying out projects to promote social development,

Considering also the key role played by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region in recent years in facilitating and encouraging dialogue among representatives of the countries of the region, and thus in promoting the consolidation of institutions devoted to social development and to policies and regulatory frameworks for such activities,

Recognizing the support function performed by the United Nations regional commissions in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development,

Taking into account the need to promote cooperation in the sphere of social development,

Having reviewed the proposal for the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the proposed nature and the objectives of the Conference, as set forth in the annex to this resolution,

1. *Approves* the establishment of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for

Latin America and the Caribbean, the objectives of which are set forth in the annex to this resolution, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, bearing in mind the observations and suggestions included in the report of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, with a view to eradicating poverty in the region and promoting decent work, equality and social inclusion;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit such proposals as may be necessary for the establishment of the Conference to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration;

3. *Decides* to convene the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the second half of 2015;

4. *Takes note* of the fact that the seventh meeting of the Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Mexico on 30 and 31 October 2014 and will be a discussion platform for promoting inclusive social development in the region;

5. *Welcomes* the generous offer of the Government of Peru to host the first session of the Regional Conference on Social Development;

6. *Invites* the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to join this initiative;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of this resolution at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

Annex to resolution 682 (XXXV)

I. Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

1. The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that will contribute to the progress of social development policies and activities in the countries of the region.

Objectives

2. The objectives of the Conference shall be:

(a) To promote the development of national policies on social development, bearing in mind national requirements and recommendations made by specialized agencies and other relevant organizations;

(b) To further international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and institutions and international and regional agencies to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of social development;

(c) To examine multidimensional poverty and make progress on poverty measurement, inequality and structural gaps, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;

(d) To exchange experiences in relation to social matters and support and provide technical inputs for the summits of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and other regional forums;

(e) To contribute from the perspective of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the discussions and proposals considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Membership

3. The States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean will be members of the Conference.

Meetings of the Conference

4. The Conference shall hold its regular meetings every two years. The Conference may accept an invitation from the Government of a member State to hold its regular meeting in that country.

Presiding Officers

5. The Conference shall elect Presiding Officers in accordance with the regulations established by the Commission. The Chair of the Presiding Officers shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference.

Secretariat

6. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat for the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents as have been approved by the Commission and the facilities necessary to carry out its work.

II. Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Nature

7. The Conference shall appoint Presiding Officers to support it, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 above.

Composition

8. The Presiding Officers shall be composed of a Chair and six members. The members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Commission. Special attention shall be devoted to ensuring that the subregional groupings of countries are duly represented among the Presiding Officers.

Election of the Presiding Officers and duration of mandates

9. At the beginning of each meeting of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chair of the Presiding Officers, in consultation with the Presiding Officers and the Conference, shall draw up a proposal for the election of the next Presiding Officers.

10. The newly elected Officers shall take up their duties upon the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Conference at which they were elected, and shall remain in office until the conclusion of the next regular meeting.

11. The Presiding Officers, including the Chair, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

12. The members of the Presiding Officers may serve for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected to that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected to serve as one of the Presiding Officers.

13. A Presiding Officer who has served for three successive terms may not be re-elected until two years have elapsed since the end of his or her previous mandate.

Duties

14. The Presiding Officers shall have the following duties:

(a) To carry out the tasks assigned to them by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) To follow up on the implementation of the agreements adopted and the tasks assigned by the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings.

Meetings

15. The Presiding Officers shall meet at least once during the interval between regular sessions of the Conference. At the meeting preceding the next session of the Regional Conference on Social Development, the Presiding Officers shall adopt a programme of activities for the Conference, which shall be submitted to the Conference at its regular meeting.

16. The Presiding Officers may invite to their meetings any countries or experts they consider may make a contribution to the fulfilment of their duties.

Request from the Government of Sint Maarten to become an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting resolution 683 (XXXV) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in which the Commission welcomed the request made by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Santiago on behalf of the Government of Sint Maarten that the latter be granted associate membership in the Commission and decided that Sint Maarten should be granted associate membership in the Commission,

1. *Approves* the granting of Sint Maarten associate membership in the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution.

Venue of the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean[1]

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Mexico to host the thirty-sixth session of the Commission,

1. *Takes note* of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 689 (XXXV) of 9 May 2014, by which the Commission accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Government of Mexico to host the thirty-sixth session of the Commission;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-sixth session in Mexico in the first half of 2016.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

2. The Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (forty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa), and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance was held in Abuja on 29 and 30 March. The Conference adopted a ministerial statement and approved a number of resolutions relating to the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Council.

Summary of the Ministerial Statement

3. The African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development deliberated on the theme, "Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa", with the shared conviction that industrialization is one of the most viable paths to employment-generating growth and development, and a core prerequisite for the structural transformation of Africa. They saluted efforts made by African Governments to increase the domestic processing of agricultural and mineral raw materials, nurture upstream and downstream linkages, foster national and regional value chains, revive local manufacturing activities and promote the competitiveness of national economies.

[1] An oral statement of programme budget implications will be read by the Secretariat in conjunction with this resolution.

4. The Ministers committed to working closely with counterparts responsible for industrial policies and with other relevant line ministries with a view to forging an integrated approach within the governmental system to overcome the various constraints to unleashing the full potential of Africa as a key industrial hub. To that end, they pledged to address the problem of securing long-term financing for investing in manufacturing, including by reviving development banking and recalibrating financial markets to make them more supportive of Africa's industrialization efforts.

5. The Conference further pledged to give greater attention to expanding and strengthening local entrepreneurship, removing the various structural obstacles to redressing Africa's infrastructural deficits, and accelerating the efforts that have been made to date to remove practices that increase transaction costs to the detriment of industrial development. In particular, they called on the relevant arms of African Governments to encourage the development of female entrepreneurship as a credible strategy for inclusive growth.

6. The Ministers called on the African Union Commission, ECA and the African Development Bank (ADB) to work closely together to ensure a better interface between the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Africa Mining Vision, the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Social Policy Framework for Africa, the Continental Free Trade Area, the Action Plan for Boosting Intra-African Trade and other related continental policy standards, frameworks and strategies, to ensure that they complement and reinforce one another in pursuit of the common goal of inclusive continental transformation. They pledged support for efforts to deepen South-South cooperation given its potential benefits for Africa's industrial transformation.

7. The Ministers commended the adoption of the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and welcomed the overarching goal of the Common African Position, which is to place Africa's structural transformation goals at the heart of the post-2015 global development agenda. They strongly urged the international community, including development partners, to embrace the Common African Position when formulating the global agenda.

8. Ministers called on the African Union Commission and ECA to facilitate the process of making the Conference more action-oriented, and underpinned by evidence-based research; and mandated the Commissions to generate the necessary documentation on the basis of sound statistical information and analyses.

Role of renewable energy in Africa's industrialization and economic transformation (resolution 913 (XLVII))

9. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, requested the African Union Commission, ECA, the regional economic communities and other relevant organizations to support member States in mobilizing the necessary financial and technical resources to promote renewable energy at the regional and national levels and to optimize investments in energy generation and transmission infrastructures, with a view to increasing the overall share of renewable energy. The Conference further resolved to ensure transformative industrialization in Africa through the development of a cutting-edge renewable energy sector that facilitates Africa's efforts to promote a green economy.

African regional integration index (resolution 914 (XLVII))

10. Noting with appreciation the work currently under way by ECA and the African Union Commission to assess the implementation of Africa's regional integration agenda, and taking into consideration key publications, such as the joint publication of ECA, the African Union Commission and ADB on assessing regional integration in Africa, the Conference, inter alia, called upon ECA and the African Union Commission to take all necessary steps to develop and use an African regional integration index, and urged them to work closely with the regional economic communities in the development and use of the African regional integration index.

11. The Conference further urged governments to scale up their commitment to and support for the accelerated attainment of the objectives of Africa's regional integration by mainstreaming agreed plans and programmes into national development policies, strategies and budgets, and undertook to work in close collaboration with other relevant ministries at the national level, to support the successful realization of the African regional integration index and Africa's regional integration in general.

New continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment (resolution 915 (XLVII))

12. Noting with appreciation the past and ongoing work that ECA, in collaboration with other partners, has carried out to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in Africa, the Ministers, inter alia, welcomed the proposed continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, which is aimed at contributing significantly to changing women's lives by promoting gender equality and women's social, economic and political rights, ensuring that the economic contributions of women are recognized and given due value, fostering women's economic empowerment by promoting women's entreprencurship within Africa's commodity-based industrialization and through the accompanying value addition, and ensuring that women are provided with quality social services, including social protection and social security.

13. The Conference further committed to supporting the full implementation of the initiative through the mobilization of regional and international resources and other measures, expressed its strong political and financial support through the regular budget and public expenditure to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative and urged ECA and the African Union Commission to report on progress made on the initiative during the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance.

Illicit financial flows (resolution 916 (XLVII))

14. The Ministers noted the diligence manifested and extensive amount of work undertaken by the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa in its analysis of illicit financial flows, involving extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders in Africa and partners in the United States of America and Europe, and, inter alia, called upon the Panel to submit its final report to the African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government at its twenty-third ordinary session in

June 2014, and further called upon African Governments and development partners to adopt supportive policies and practices to combat illicit financial flows.

15. The Ministers requested the continued engagement of the Chair of the Panel in carrying out advocacy work to disseminate the Panel's findings and to galvanize support from a broad coalition of partners to implement the Panel's recommendations, and entrusted ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, with disseminating the findings and recommendations of the Panel and undertaking further research and capacity-development activities in that regard within the continent and at the global level.

Country profiles (resolution 917 (XLVII))

16. The Conference noted the need for specific country profiles that focus on structural transformation of the African economies and recognized that the country profiles can provide an effective vehicle for ECA to produce and disseminate country- and region-specific policy analysis and recommendations on structural transformation of African economies. The Conference therefore, inter alia, adopted the country profile template proposed by ECA, committed to improving collaboration between African countries' national statistical systems and ECA in the production of, access to and dissemination of data and country profiles, and urged ECA to scale up its efforts to strengthen national statistical systems, with a view to improving the availability, quality and timeliness of statistics in African countries.

Strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2016-2017 (resolution 918 (XLVII))

17. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the annual report of ECA, which highlighted the significant results achieved by the Commission in its programme areas, namely, macroeconomic policy, regional integration and trade, innovation and technology, the management of Africa's natural resources, statistics, capacity development, gender and women in development, subregional initiatives and data centres, development planning and administration, and social development policy. After examining the draft strategic framework and proposed biennial programme plan for ECA for the period 2014-2015, the Ministers endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan for ECA for the period 2016-2017, taking into account the discussion and related observations made at the meeting.

18. The Ministers called upon the Committee for Programme and Coordination to support the biennial programme plan for ECA for the period 2016-2017 and to ensure that the necessary resources are made available for its effective implementation, urged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that Africa's development remains a top priority for the United Nations development agenda, with a view to enabling African countries to meet their development goals, and called for the enhanced use of results-based management approaches for better accountability and impact in programme delivery.

Green economy and structural transformation in Africa (resolution 919 (XLVII))

19. The Conference acknowledged that, for Africa to embark fully on a green economy trajectory, it will require the mobilization of new financial resources from public and private sources. They recognized the importance of science, new

technologies and innovation in achieving a green economy in Africa. The Conference therefore, inter alia, called upon the African Union Commission, ECA, ADB and other development partners to support African countries in strengthening their capacity to formulate, adopt and implement inclusive green economy policies, and invited multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, foundations, research institutions and universities to work with the African Union Commission, ECA, ADB and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide technical assistance and financial resources to enable member States to usher in a favourable business environment.

Agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa (resolution 921 (XLVII))

20. The Conference recalled the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and, inter alia, called upon member States to significantly increase their public budgets allocated to agriculture and related sectors in support of the agricultural sector in line with the targets of the Programme on the allocation of at least 10 per cent of annual budgets to agriculture, with a view to achieving an increase of at least 6 per cent in agricultural gross domestic product. The Conference also requested ministries of economy and finance and ministries of development and planning to create more incentives for private-sector investments along all agricultural value chains, and invited member States to strengthen public-private partnerships to facilitate and channel private-sector investments, both domestic and external, in agro-industries.

Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa (resolution 922 (XLVII))

21. The Ministers noted that industrialization is the route that developed and developing countries alike have embarked upon to pursue employment-generating growth and development, due to its immense potential to create upstream and downstream linkages with the rest of the economy and create more high-income jobs. They requested ECA and the African Union Commission, together with the regional economic communities and other partner institutions, to cement industrialization in the post-2015 development agenda and the Agenda 2063 framework, and to continue to research how countries can rework industrial policy as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic transformation.

Post-2015 development agenda (resolution 923 (XLVII))

22. The Ministers commended Heads of States and Governments on adopting the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and, inter alia, requested member States to mainstream the Common African Position into their national development plans and ensure that its overarching goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms is the key message in the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The Ministers further called upon member States to enhance their statistical capacity to enable them to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and called upon countries that have not signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics to do so as expeditiously as possible.

23. The Conference also called upon the African Union Commission, in collaboration with ECA, ADB and the African Capacity-Building Foundation, to

fast-track the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Statistics Training Centre, and requested the African Union Commission, ECA, ADB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate regular expert dialogue between development planners and statisticians, with the purpose of embedding statistics in planning and management for results.

24. The Ministers further requested that the African Union Commission, ECA, ADB, UNDP and the regional economic communities organize a high-level conference in 2014 to discuss the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda.

Postal financial services (resolution 924 (XLVII))

25. The Ministers took note of the report of the African Union Commission on postal financial services in Africa, including strategies to increase the inclusion of low-income populations and the vastness of the postal sector and its important role in providing access to financial services for an estimated 10 per cent of the adult population. Consequently, the Ministers, inter alia, mandated the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Pan-African Postal Union, the regional economic communities, subregional postal organizations and the member States, to improve the performance of postal financial services, support information dissemination and best practices and promote innovation.

26. The Conference further encouraged development partners, in particular ADB, ECA, the Universal Postal Union, the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the World Savings Bank Institute, to support the implementation of the resolution.

Productivity, competitiveness and industrialization (resolution 925 (XLVII))

27. The Ministers recognized the importance of productivity and social dialogue for the achievement of inclusive growth and, inter alia, called for the establishment and enhancement of productivity organizations at the national and regional levels and for efforts to ensure that they become members of the Pan-African Productivity Association. They further requested the African Union Commission to work closely with the Pan-African Productivity Association, the regional economic communities and international partners, including UNDP, the International Labour Organization, UNEP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in order to facilitate the establishment of regional organizations on productivity and social dialogue and to compile and disseminate best practices on productivity in Africa.

Alternative sources of financing for the African Union (resolution 926 (XLVII))

28. Cognizant of the principle that the African Union needs adequate, sustainable and predictable financial resources in order to fund its programmes, including those on peace and security, and to reduce its dependency on external partners, the Conference, inter alia, decided to set up a ministerial working group operating under the leadership of the African Union Commission, with the technical support of ECA, that comprises the following countries: Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tunisia.

29. The Ministers requested the African Union Commission, with the support of ECA and members of the ministerial working group, to examine the African Union's budget targets for the next three-year period, including the budget for peace and security, and to come up with implementation mechanisms on the basis of the two options proposed in the report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa as well as additional new options. The findings of the working group will be considered by Ministers of Finance on the margins of the World Economic Forum, to be held from 7 to 9 May 2014 in Abuja. The Ministers also requested the African Union Commission to submit the report of the working group at the twenty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, to be held in June 2014 in Malabo.

African Risk Capacity agency: sovereign disaster risk solutions (resolution 927 (XLVII))

30. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, welcomed the progress report of the African Union Commission on the establishment of the African Risk Capacity agency and requested development finance institutions and partners to channel their financial support for risk management in Africa through the existing African-led institutions. The Conference further requested the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity agency to develop a proposal for an arrangement by which African Governments can gain access to climate financing, linked to increased climate volatility, for adaptation activities and climate-resilient development pathways.

31. The Ministers urged African Union member States to sign and ratify the agreement on the establishment of the African Risk Capacity agency, in order to be able to use the agency's weather risk management advisory services, expertise and tools, such as the Africa Risk View software. They called upon development partners and partner institutions to support this endeavour and critical contribution to the continent's climate change management and adaptation infrastructure, as the international community moves from the Hyogo Framework for Action towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

32. The Thirty-Fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held from 5 to 9 May in Lima. At the session, the Commission approved a number of resolutions relating to the programme of work of ECLAC, summaries of which are set out below for the attention of the Council.

ECLAC calendar of conferences for the period 2015-2016 (resolution 676 (XXXV))

33. The Commission, inter alia, reaffirmed the decision to maintain the current intergovernmental structure and the existing pattern of meetings and approved the ECLAC calendar of conferences, stating that its conference servicing system had proved to be efficient in substantive and organizational terms as well as cost-effective. The Commission recommended that the tasks continue to be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary and reaffirmed the importance that that ECLAC continue to organize and hold regional and subregional meetings to prepare for and follow up on world conferences of the United Nations in the economic, social and sustainable development fields. It decided, for economic and

environmental reasons, to employ documents in electronic format for the sessions of the Commission and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission; requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as may be necessary to ensure implementation of the calendar of conferences as approved; and called upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.

Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 677 (XXXV))

34. The Commission, inter alia, reaffirmed the Santo Domingo Consensus, as adopted by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at its twelfth session, pledged to advocate its implementation and welcomed the progress made since its adoption; and accepted the proposal of the member countries to hold preparatory meetings for the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean during the first half of 2015. It acknowledged the role played by ECLAC, through its Division for Gender Affairs, in the work relating to gender statistics in the region and its active participation in the Statistical Conference of the Americas, specifically with respect to the Technical Working Group on Gender Statistics.

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 678 (XXXV))

35. The Commission, inter alia, expressed satisfaction at the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as the intergovernmental body that coordinates international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems. It called upon the Governments of the region to acknowledge the importance of the work of national statistical systems and the challenges they face in producing relevant, timely and good-quality, empirical information for public policy design and evaluation; and accordingly requested that the necessary resources be made available and a suitable legal and institutional framework be consolidated, so that the public departments working on statistics may form an effective system and operate in a coordinated manner under the leadership of the statistical office or institute.

Support for the work of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (resolution 679 (XXXV))

36. The Commission, inter alia, expressed its satisfaction with the support provided by the Office of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to the activities of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to support its work with human and financial resources; and reiterated the recommendation that the Institute strengthen its capacity as the body responsible for training within ECLAC and broaden its activities in that area in collaboration with the subregional headquarters, divisions of ECLAC and other international institutions. It requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Chief of the Institute to engage in a process of consultation and dialogue with national planning authorities, with a view to identifying national, subregional and regional priorities in the area of development planning; and decided to convene the twenty-fourth meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional

Council for Planning in Guatemala on 19 and 20 June 2014; and the fifteenth meeting of the Regional Council for Planning of the Institute in Quito, on 23 and 24 November 2015.

Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (resolution 680 (XXXV))

37. The Commission, inter alia, commended the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean on its efforts to strengthen and fully operationalize the Regional Coordination Mechanism in order to monitor and promote the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and to facilitate preparations for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia. It welcomed the transfer of the Disaster Assessment Unit from the headquarters of ECLAC in Santiago to the subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain; and urged the Executive Secretary to employ all measures necessary to ensure the full implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its twenty-fifth session, the recommendations formulated by the Monitoring Committee at its sixteenth meeting and the conclusions reached at the third Caribbean Development Round-table.

Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 681 (XXXV))

38. The Commission, inter alia, reiterated the appeal to establish a national coordinating mechanism, with the participation of civil society organizations, to facilitate the implementation and follow up of the Cairo Programme of Action beyond 2014 and to liaise with the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It thanked the United Nations Population Fund for its contribution to the activities of the Regional Conference; and requested the competent funds, programmes and specialized agencies to make their contributions, as appropriate, to the activities to be carried out by the Regional Conference.

Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2016-2017 biennium (resolution 684 (XXXV))

39. The Commission, inter alia, adopted the programme of work of ECLAC for the period 2016-2017, in its totality and requested the Executive Secretary to submit the proposed budget for implementing the activities described in the programme of work to the relevant United Nations bodies for their consideration. It noted with satisfaction the report on the activities of the Commission from January 2012 to December 2013 and underlined the wide-ranging outcomes achieved by ECLAC, and commended its results-based approach and capacity to respond to the needs of the region. The Commission welcomed efforts made by the Executive Secretary to strengthen accountability and evaluation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness and relevance of ECLAC and encouraged the Executive Secretary to continue the practice of convening the ECLAC Committee of the Whole in the intervals between the sessions of the Commission in order to strengthen and broaden the dialogue between member States and the secretariat on issues deemed to be relevant.

40. The delegations of Latin America and the Caribbean further expressed their concern at the decline in funding allocated to ECLAC and at the tendency for the

United Nations Secretariat to relegate to the category of extrabudgetary items posts and activities previously funded under the regular budget.

Activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields (resolution 685 (XXXV))

41. The Commission, inter alia, requested the secretariat to continue to cooperate with the countries of the region in the implementation and follow up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including the 2005 World Summit Outcome; and further requested the secretariat to continue to coordinate the preparation of annual regional inter-agency reports on the progress made towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/46.

Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 686 (XXXV))

42. The Commission, inter alia, commended ECLAC on progress made in the process towards the adoption of a regional instrument for the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which is under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, and invited countries in the region to participate actively in the fourth meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in November 2014 at the headquarters of the Commission in Santiago.

Regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 687 (XXXV))

43. The Commission, inter alia, requested ECLAC to prepare, on the basis of the deliberations at the thirty-fifth session and the content of the document "Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future", a report identifying areas of convergence between the countries of the region as regards the issues to be covered under the post-2015 development agenda, and to submit the report to Peru, in its capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, as the contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the intergovernmental negotiation process leading towards the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

South-South cooperation (resolution 688 (XXXV))

44. The Commission, inter alia, requested the Chair of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, together with the Presiding Officers of the High-Level Committee, the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, to continue with the process of identifying indicators of South-South cooperation, incorporating the methodology and advances developed for the Ibero-American Secretariat report on South-South cooperation in Ibero-America, under the Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation, and to report on any progress to the Committee of the

Whole at its session in 2015. It further requested the Chair of the High-Level Committee to take steps to ensure that the High-Level Committee is invited to the forthcoming meeting of the task force on the quantification of South-South cooperation set up within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission; and requested the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of the resolution at the meeting of the High-Level Committee to be held in the framework of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

Lima resolution (resolution 690 (XXXV))

45. The Commission, inter alia, welcomed the integrated approach to development that has marked the thinking of ECLAC since its inception, as reflected in the document "Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future", recognized the relevance of the issues examined and supported the general tenor of the document's conclusions. It instructed the secretariat to conduct studies and formulate public policy proposals, in close cooperation with policymakers, with a view to building national economic and social development capacities, and called upon the secretariat to widely disseminate the document and promote its review in the economic, academic, political, business and social spheres in the region, by means of national dialogues on the main issues covered, taking each country's national characteristics into account, and in international organizations concerned with economic development, in order to continue to foster more in-depth comparative analysis vis-à-vis countries outside the region.

Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (resolution 691 (XXXV))

46. The Commission, inter alia, took note of the Montevideo Declaration and the plan of work 2013-2015 for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, and invited all member States to attend the preparatory meeting for the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Costa Rica in 2014, and the Conference itself, to be held in Mexico in 2015.